

Central Intelligence Agency  
Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

DD 1  
Record

DDI #04585-85  
18 September 1985

Mr. David Sullivan  
Legislative Assistant  
c/o Senator James McClure  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dave:

Secretary Weinberger is releasing the enclosed paper this morning. Thousands of copies will be circulated to US defense contractors, foreign governments and other interested parties.

STAT

I appreciated the clippings you sent (and your note).

STAT

Robert M. Gates  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Enclosure:  
As Stated

DDI/RMGates [redacted] STAT

DISTRIBUTION:

0 - Addressee (delivered after lunch)  
1 - OLL  
1 - DDI Registry  
1 - DDI Chrono

# **Soviet Acquisition of Militarily Significant Western Technology: An Update**

**September 1985**

## **Soviet Acquisition of Militarily Significant Western Technology: An Update**

In recent years, the United States Government has learned of a massive, well-organized campaign by the Soviet Union to acquire Western technology illegally and legally for its weapons and military equipment projects. Each year Moscow receives thousands of pieces of Western equipment and many tens of thousands of unclassified, classified, and proprietary documents as part of this campaign. Virtually every Soviet military research project—well over 4,000 each year in the late 1970s and over 5,000 in the early 1980s—benefits from these technical documents and hardware. The assimilation of Western technology is so broad that the United States and other Western nations are thus subsidizing the Soviet military buildup.

Western products and technology secrets are being systematically acquired by intricately organized, highly effective collection programs specifically targeted to improve Soviet military weapon systems. The Soviet intelligence services—the KGB, the GRU, and their surrogates among the East European services—and Soviet trade and scientific organizations are actively involved in obtaining this technology. Targets include defense contractors, manufacturers, foreign trading firms, academic institutions, and electronic data bases. Only recently has the full extent of illegal Soviet technology collection efforts become known.

The purpose of this paper is to reveal in detail the structure of these Soviet programs, and to give examples of Soviet requirements and successes. Understanding the Soviet effort is a critical first step in protecting Western technology and preventing it from being turned against the West.